

Amendments to Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior listings and versions of the claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A container useful for storing pieces of split-shot therein, comprising:

- a. an elongate receptacle comprising a closed bottom wall, a top opening, and a body between the top opening and the closed bottom wall, the body having a smooth outer surface, whereby a cavity is defined within the elongate receptacle, and
- b. ~~a pliable and resilient tubular closure having an open end[,] a piece of plastic tubing formed into a closure for the elongate receptacle, the closure comprising a closed end, and an elongate body between the open end and the closed end, said tubular closure being sized such the open end fits over the top opening of the elongate receptacle to frictionally engage the cylindrical body of the elongate receptacle, said tubular closure defining at least one slit through the elongate body providing access to the cavity within the receptacle.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The container of claim 1, wherein the ~~body of the elongate receptacle is generally cylindrical in shape. at least one slit being of a size to admit a piece of split shot when pushed open and to retain the piece of split shot when closed.~~

Claim 3 (original): The container of claim 1, wherein the at least one slit comprises a pair of intersecting slits.

Claim 4 (original): The container of claim 1, wherein the at least one slit comprises three intersecting slits.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The container of claim 1, wherein the ~~tubular~~ closure defines an aperture through the tubular closure at the closed end thereof, whereby said aperture provides a place where said container can be attached to a retractor and hung by the tubular closure.

Claim 6 (original): The container of claim 1, wherein the elongate receptacle is transparent.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The container of claim 1, wherein the ~~tubular~~ closure comprises soft plastic tubing having one end thereof sealed closed.

Claim 8 (original): The container of claim 2, wherein the generally cylindrical body of the elongate receptacle further comprises a threaded section at the top opening such that a cap can be screwed thereto when the elongate closure is not frictionally engaged with the elongate receptacle.

Claim 9 (original): The container of claim 1, wherein the elongate receptacle is a bottle made of a material chosen from the group consisting of glass and plastic.

Claim 10 (original): The container of claim 9, wherein the elongate receptacle is a glass bottle and the threaded section has a smaller diameter than the remainder of the generally cylindrical body of the elongate receptacle.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The container of claim 10, wherein the tubular closure is made from 1/2 inch diameter soft plastic tubing with 1/16 inch wall thickness.

Claim 12 (original): The container of claim 11, wherein the glass bottle is a dram bottle between about 0.5 drams and about 2 drams.

Claim 13 (currently amended): In a bottle of the type comprising a closed bottom wall, a top opening, a generally cylindrical body having a smooth outer surface, and optionally a threaded portion between the top opening and the cylindrical body, with a cavity defined within the bottle, the improvement being a closure for the bottle, the closure comprising: a pliable and resilient elongate plastic tube comprising an open end, a closed end, and a tubular body between the open end and the closed end, wherein the open end is sized to frictionally engage the smooth outer surface of the generally cylindrical body of the

bottle, and the tubular body of the closure defines at least one slit passing through the tubular body ~~and~~ providing access to the cavity defined within the bottle.

Claim 14 (original): The closure of claim 13 wherein the at least one slit comprises a pair of intersecting slits.

Claim 15 (original): The closure of claim 13 wherein the at least one slit comprises three intersecting slits.

Claim 16 (original): The closure of claim 13, wherein the closure defines an aperture passing through the closure at the closed end whereby said aperture provides a place where said container can be attached to a retractor and hung by the closure.

Claim 17(currently amended): The closure of claim 13, wherein the closure comprises soft plastic tubing having one end thereof sealed closed and said at least one slit being sized to admit a piece of split shot when pushed open and to retain a piece of split shot when closed.

Claim 18 (original): The closure of claim 13, wherein the closure is sized to fit a standard sized bottle.

Claim 19 (original): The closure of claim 18, wherein the standard sized bottle is a 1-dram bottle.